



Central South Dakota Outdoor Report

Wildlife Division – Region 2



Brule/Buffalo Counties

Diana Landegent



Fishing Report: See Missouri River Report below

The channel in the Chamberlain thaws and opens regularly due to the weather. The channel in the Chamberlain area is currently frozen as of 2/23. No ice fishermen have been fishing as of lately. The south boat ramp at Big Bend Dam is open. The water levels are low which could make the fast water boat ramp difficult to launch a boat from. Fishermen have reported catching a few walleyes from the boat near Crow Creek and Kiowa Flats.

The fish cleaning stations are closed for the winter. The minimum length restriction is 15 inches with one walleye over 20 inches. The daily possession limit is 4 walleyes and 8 walleyes possession. The area between the Interstate Bridge and Railroad Bridge known as the dredge hole is now closed until April 30th.

REMINDER: Purchase your 2015 fishing license. The 2014 fishing license expired January 31st.



Hunting Report:

Canada goose season closed February 15th.

The light goose conservation order opened statewide February 14 and closes May 3rd. This season includes snows, blue and Ross' geese. Canada geese, white-fronted geese or any other goose species cannot be taken. No reports of snows geese have been reported in the area lately.

A Huntsafe class is scheduled for April 10th and 11th in Chamberlain. Both days are required to successfully complete the class to receive a Huntsafe card. Or if the class is completed online, the field day is Saturday the 11th in the afternoon. Please contact the Chamberlain office if you plan on attending the field day only.

Students must register online at: <https://gfp.sd.gov/outdoor-learning/hunter/education/ClassList.aspx>

Campbell County

Doug DeLaRoi



Fishing Report: See Missouri River report below

Fishing pressure has slowed some on the Oahe with continued spotty success. Walleye being caught are between 13 and 17 inches on average. Anglers should continue to use caution when traveling on the ice. Reminder that ice shack must be removed from the ice daily beginning on Sunday March 1st.



Hunting Report:

2014 licenses have expired remember to purchase 2015 licenses.

Corson/Dewey Counties

Shawn Madison:



Fishing Report:

Pudwell Dam: Good fish populations including several year classes of walleye, largemouth bass, crappie, and perch. Fishing activity has been low.

Morristown East: No activity but stocking efforts past two years has been successful for largemouth and crappies. Fish size is small. Some northern pike.

Morristown West: No activity. perch stockings have been successful ranging from 8-10 inches.

Trail City Dam: Little to no activity and a lot of small northern pike showed up in surveys.

Little Moreau #1: Activity low. Not much biting.

Little Moreau #2: Catching nice size rainbow trout on lures and corn with salmon eggs.

Isabel Lake: Some activity. Largemouth bass have been biting. Nice population of bluegill, some large being caught.

Eagle Butte Dam: No activity. Year classes of bluegill look very good, ranging from 6-8 inches. Bass numbers are very good as well as perch



Hunting Report:

All seasons are closed in the area. We still have an abundance of coyotes ,lots of pressure from callers and coyote calling contests. Coyotes have heard it all and are pretty unresponsive to calls.

Charles Mix/Douglas Counties

Jeff Martin



Fishing Report: See Missouri River Report below

Recent cold temps have a few people back on the ice. Foot traffic is the only method of travel advised. The edges have firmed up thanks to cold weather but they cannot be trusted. Water levels in the reservoir will continue to rise and temps will eventually rebound making the edges unstable once again. Proceed with caution and at your own risk. My advice, pray for a heat wave and we can get the boats out!



Hunting Report:

Crow season opens on Sun 3/1, this can be a fun winter boredom buster. The crows are starting to arrive and bunch up. If you have an electronic predator call most have “crow fight” on them. Throw out a couple black objects for decoys and turn the call on when crows are near, most will come over for a look. They usually will fall for it once; they are pretty hesitant to return however. Be sure to dispose of them in a responsible manner.

Gregory County

Hans Walleser



Fishing Report:

Ice is deteriorated significantly with warm temperatures and precipitation. Do not venture out to ice fish if you are inexperienced. Safety always comes first. River ice is very dangerous and my suggestion is to stay off. Pond ice thickness is 5 inches or less to 8 inches prior to last weekends’ warm temperatures. Don’t fish alone.

Make sure you buy your 2015 Fishing License. 2014 licenses have expired.



Hunting Report:

A valid hunting license is required to hunt small game, including rabbits. Remember the 2014 licenses EXPIRE on January 31, 2015. Make sure you have your 2015 license purchased. The cottontail rabbit season closes February 28 with a daily limit of 10 and possession limit of 30. Squirrel season ends February 28 the daily limit is 5 and possession limit is 15. Bobcat season ends this Sunday, February 15 remember a FURBEARER license is required to hunt/trap bobcat. Bobcat season is closed East River. If you accidentally catch a bobcat, notify a conservation officer. Do not remove or disturb the animal in the trap if it is deceased. West River bobcat season ends February 15. All harvested cats must be checked by an officer within

5 days of harvest. If you are done trapping for the season, please remove all of your traps from public property and road right of ways.

Any questions or concerns may be directed to Conservation Officer Hans Walleser at 605-775-2475 or PO Box 433 Burke, SD 57523. Have fun. Be safe.

Hyde/Hand Counties

Cory Flor



Fishing Report: *See Missouri River report below*
Anglers have been doing poorly lately.



Hunting Report:
The snow goose migration should be heading this way in the next few weeks so check back often.

Hughes County

John Murphy



Fishing Report:

Light Goose Conservation Order is open but no light geese in area.



Hunting Report:

Ice conditions are variable, people out on the ice need to check conditions and watch for pressure ridges. People are catching a few fish at West Bend and Joe Creek.

Jones County

Brian Ridgway



Fishing Report: *See Missouri River Report below*

The grasslands ponds are still producing angling opportunities for those anglers with cabin fever. Ice conditions very tremendously from pond to pond. Ice conditions varied extensively.



Hunting Report:

As many hunting season draw to a close, now is the time hunters can start preparing for next years' hunting season. This is a great time to make of list of things you used, needed or even wanted. Spreading the list out evenly over the next 10 months is easier on the budget. Now is also a great time to thank landowners for allowing permission on to private property. It is also recommended to find a nice day to remove portable deer stands from the field to protect costly straps and cables from being weathered.

Reminder: Portable deer stands need to be removed from lands owned, leased or controlled by GFP no later than February 15th

Lyman County

Brian Ridgway



Fishing Report: See Missouri River Report below

Fishing has come to a halt on the River. Ice conditions are not conducive to fishing excursions. Old ice has become rotten and makes for unsafe travel. Boat ramps are still locked up with ice pack.



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Potter County

Brad Saltsman



Fishing Report: *See Missouri River report below:*

Potts Dam – no fishing report

Lake Hurley – Anglers are catching a few perch around the area of the boat ramp

Simon Dam – no fishing activity

Missouri River – Ice is still pretty good. Most pressure ridges have disappeared causing some hazards. Fishing is fair around Whitlocks and fair to good near the Moreau River. Anglers are catching walleyes in 30-40 feet of water



Hunting Report:

No Report

Stanley County

Josh Thompson



Fishing Report: See Missouri River Report below.

Twin Dams – The bass and perch bite has been hit and miss throughout the day.

Hayes Lake – Bluegill, northern pike, and largemouth bass have all been biting fairly well. Pursuers of the pike have had better success fishing the shallower waters.

Ft. Pierre Nat. Grasslands – Anglers have been catching some fish. These ponds offer chances at bluegill, perch, bass, and more.

Lake Oahe – Fishing activity has slowed with the unstable ice conditions.

Lake Sharpe – Fishing activity has slowed. Use extreme caution before venturing out onto any unfamiliar ice.



Hunting Report:

February 28th, 2015 is the final day of the Cottontail Rabbit and Tree Squirrel hunting season.

Coyote – Coyote numbers have been good this year. Calling and trapping are both great ways to pursue this animal.

For any further information, Game, Fish & Parks hunting and fishing handbooks are available at local licensing agents; or you can visit the SD Game, Fish & Parks website at www.gfp.sd.gov.

Sully County

Andy Schmahl



Fishing Report: See Missouri River Report below.

Cottonwood Lake: No activity

Lake Oahe: Fishing has been slow, but there has been some success. Mostly fishermen have stayed off the ice due to the warm weather degrading ice conditions and making the ice very inconsistent. If you venture out on the ice, please use caution.



Hunting Report:

Goose Hunting: Goose hunting in Sully County has been extremely hit or miss with a lot of miss. The warm weather has melted the snow and opened up the water. So the geese are very spread out and have become difficult to pattern. The goose season is quickly coming to a close, and it winds down on February 15th this year.

Tripp/Todd/Mellette Counties

Chris Dekker



Fishing Report: See Missouri River Report below

Fishing has slowed. The ice is not good in many locations.



Hunting Report:

Coyote hunting has continues to be good. A little fresh snow should boost harvest.

Walworth County

Doug DeLaRoi/Brad Saltsman



Fishing Report: *See Missouri River report below*

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Hunting Report:

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Missouri River report:

Lake Oahe and Lake Sharpe

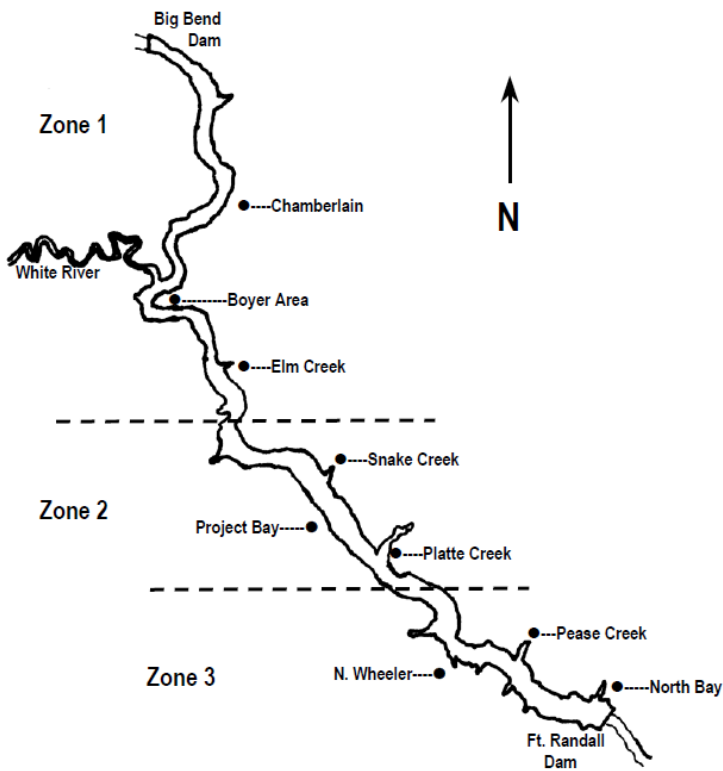
Kyle Potter

Lake Oahe

No Report

Lake Sharpe

No Report



Lake Francis Case

Gary Knecht

CAUTION - Ice conditions on the reservoirs can be variable. Areas with flowing water may have thin ice, so use extreme caution when walking on the ice and check ice thickness often.

Zone 1

On warm days boats have been venturing out below Big Bend Dam with some success on walleyes. The main channel is open in the Chamberlain area, but has been freezing over on cold days.

SIZE RESTRICTION - There is a 15 inch minimum length limit for walleye/sauger and only one walleye/sauger may be kept over 20 inches.

CLOSED AREA - The area between the railroad bridge and the I-90 Bridge in Brule and Lyman counties is closed to fishing from Dec 1 through April 30.

